

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

MARVEL

#600



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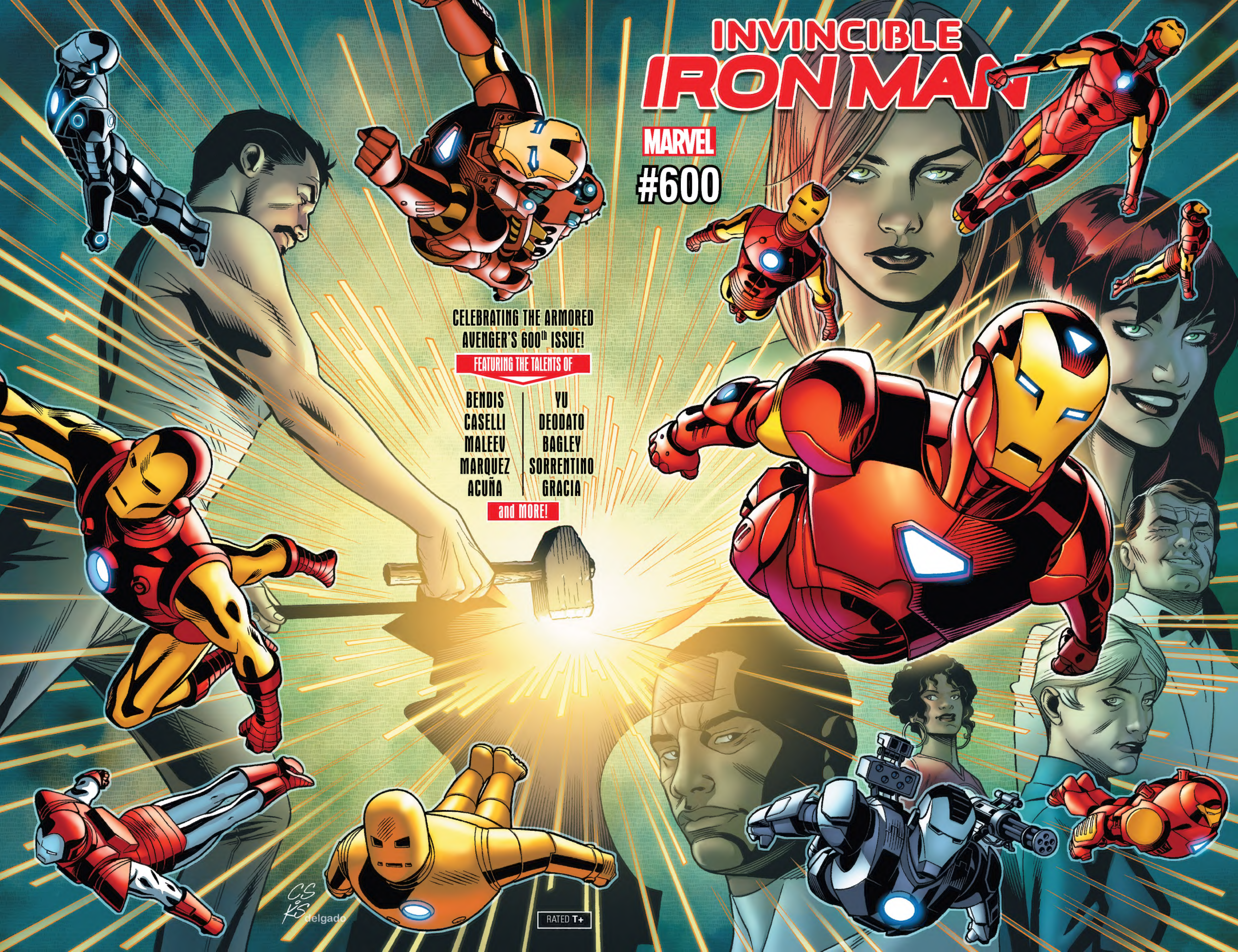
CELEBRATING THE ARMORED
AVENGER'S 600TH ISSUE!

FEATURING THE TALENTS OF

BENDIS
CASELLI
MALEEV
MARQUEZ
ACUÑA

YU
DEODATO
BAGLEY
SORRENTINO
GRACIA

and MORE!



CS
KS
delgado

RATED T+

HEY!

I AM THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MATRIX BUILT BY TONY STARK TO SIMULATE, WITH SURPRISING ACCURACY, THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING WITH TONY STARK.

I WAS CREATED TO HELP THE FABULOUS RIRI WILLIAMS LEARN, TRAIN AND ADJUST TO BEING IRONHEART--THE NEW ARMORED SUPER HERO.

BUT ISN'T THAT SO TONY BEING TONY? HERE'S THE GIFT...OF ME!

BUT IT IS THE PERFECT GIFT BECAUSE I'M ACTUALLY EXACTLY WHAT SHE NEEDED.

IT'S SO FUNNY, AT FIRST I REALLY STRUGGLED WITH MY--MY OWN EXISTENCE.

SEE? I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF TONY STARK'S INTELLECT AND HIS EGO.

SPOILERS! TONY STARK DOES HAVE QUITE THE EGO.

OH, YOU TOTALLY LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR BODY?

AND I AM THAT EGO WITHOUT ALL THE FRAGILE HUMANITY OF THE HUMAN BODY TO KEEP IT IN CHECK.

I DON'T HAVE THAT. I HAVE NOTHING HOLDING MY EGO BACK.

I'M PRETTY GREAT.

IT'S THE REST OF YOU THAT ARE HIGHLY PROBLEMATIC.

CONGRATULATIONS, THEN! IT'S YOU AND THE RED HULK. EVERYONE ELSE HAS PROBLEMS WITH SOMETHING ABOUT THEM AND THAT TENDS TO KEEP THE EGO IN CHECK.

BUT OKAY, ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW IS: WHERE IS THE REAL TONY STARK?

EVERYONE DOES.

BECAUSE HE'S HIDING.

BUT I KNOW WHERE HE IS BECAUSE I AM, AS I SAID, AWESOME.

AND I AM ALSO, IN THIS CASE, AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF WHAT WOULD TONY STARK DO...

THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK FINALE

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PRESIDENT: DAN BUCKLEY EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

"TONY HAS HIS HANDS FULL."

"NOT TOO LONG AGO, TONY LOST A BIG BATTLE THAT SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM. BUT IT DIDN'T."

"SEE, IT SEEMS, SECRETLY, TONY HAS BEEN GENTLY POKING AT HIS OWN DNA. JUST LITTLE ADJUSTMENTS HERE AND THERE, NOW AND THEN, ALL IN FAVOR OF THE NEW ARMORS AND NEW DISCOVERIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES."

"WELL, TO BE FRANK, IT'S ALL UNTESTED, UNPROVEN, UNDOCUMENTED SCIENCE. VERY FROWNED UPON. BUT, IT SEEMS, JUST THIS ONE TIME..."

"...IT SAVED HIS LIFE."

"HIS BODY REBOOTED INSTEAD OF FAILING, HENCE THE MOMENTARY LACK OF HAIR, AND NOW HE IS ON THE MEND."

"BUT IT OCCURRED TO HIM THAT IF HE SURVIVED A FATAL ATTACK THAT REBOOTED HIS BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS..."

"...THEN MAYBE HIS BEST FRIEND JAMES 'RHOPEY' RHODES, THE AMAZING WAR MACHINE, WHO RECENTLY DIED IN BATTLE (AT THE HANDS OF THANOS, NO LESS), MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED, TOO."

"MAYBE HE ISN'T SO MUCH DEAD AS...DEAD-ISH."

"BUT TONY MUST GO IT ALONE BECAUSE WHAT TONY HAS ACTUALLY DONE IS PLUG UP HIS DEAD FRIEND'S DEAD CORPSE IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT."

"IT'S WEIRD. IT'S CREEPY."

"AND NOW HE HYPER-THINKS ABOUT HOW TO BRING RHOPEY BACK TO LIFE WITHOUT, YOU KNOW, ZOMBIE."

"TONY REALLY WANTS TO AVOID CREATING A ZOMBIE OF HIS BEST FRIEND THAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE BECAUSE OF THE, WELL, DEEP GUILT AND REGRET."

"RHOPEY'S PATH AS A SUPER HERO WAS INSPIRED AND FUNDED BY TONY, AND NOW HE'S GONE."

"BUT TONY CAN EASILY TELL HIMSELF THAT JAMES RHODES WAS A DECORATED WAR HERO AND SOLDIER WHO LIVED WITH WAR AND BATTLE EVERY DAY OF HIS ADULT LIFE, BY CHOICE."

"NO ONE BLAMES TONY FOR RHOPEY'S DEATH BUT TONY."

"DEEP DOWN, HE KNOWS THIS."

"ESPECIALLY BECAUSE TONY WASN'T EVEN THERE WHEN RHOPEY DIED."

"IT WAS THANOS WHO KILLED HIM, DID I TELL YOU THAT?"





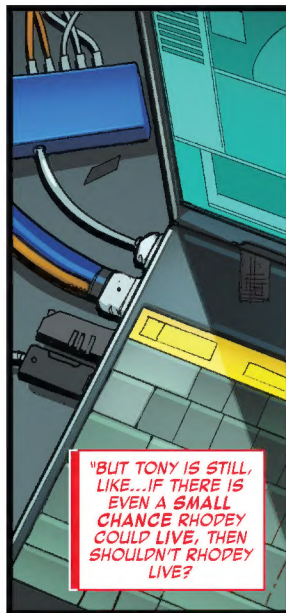
"I JUST MENTION IT BECAUSE IT WASN'T A PUNK-ASS DEATH."



"IT WAS HEROIC."



"ONE THAT RHOPEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH."



"BUT TONY IS STILL, LIKE...IF THERE IS EVEN A SMALL CHANCE RHOPEY COULD LIVE, THEN SHOULDN'T RHOPEY LIVE?"



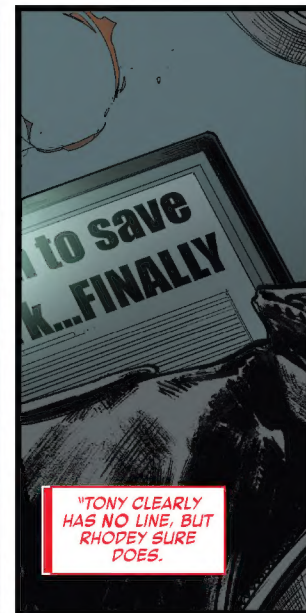
"TONY THINKS ABOUT THIS. A LOT. A LOT, A LOT."



"HE DOES. WOULD RHOPEY WANT TO BE BROUGHT BACK?"



"SURE, WHO WOULDN'T? BUT WHERE IS RHOPEY'S LINE IN THE SAND ON THIS?"



"TONY CLEARLY HAS NO LINE, BUT RHOPEY SURE DOES."



"WOULD RHOPEY APPROVE OF WHAT TONY IS DOING, OR WOULD HE BE...PISSED?"



"TONY THINKS ABOUT HOW MUCH RHOPEY LOVED LIFE AND LOVED BEING A SOLDIER AND A SUPER HERO AND LOVED THE AVENGERS AND CAROL DANVERS..."



"AND WOULD IT BE INSANE TO BRING RHOPEY BACK TO EVERYONE? TO CAROL DANVERS? WOULDN'T THE COUNTRY LIKE ONE OF ITS HEROES BACK?"



"TONY DOES QUICK GIBBERISH MATH ON HOW MANY LIVES RHOPEY HAS SAVED IN JUST THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, AND THAT'S ALL IT TAKES."



"MATH."



"I GET WHERE TONY IS COMING FROM IN ALL THIS...BUT I WAS PROGRAMMED TO."



"ALSO, GETTING BACK TO ME...AS A DISEMBODED A.I., I CAN REALLY STRUGGLE WITH HOW THE WORLD WORKS."



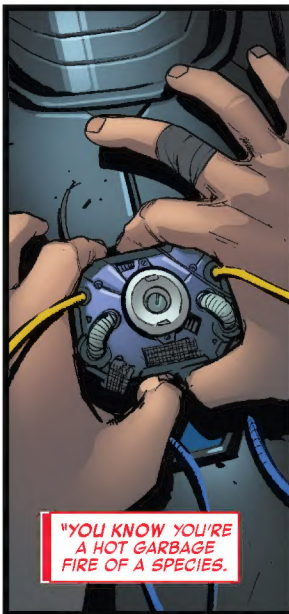
"HOW CRAZY THE WORLD IS. HOW HUMANS, REALLY, NO OFFENSE, RUIN ALMOST EVERYTHING."



"HUMANS! RIGHT?"



"WELL, YOU KNOW. YOU'RE PROBABLY ONE OF THEM."



"YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HOT GARBAGE FIRE OF A SPECIES."



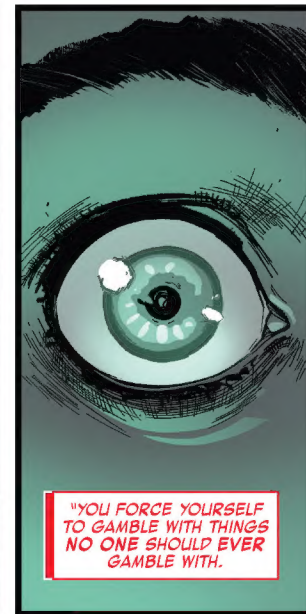
"THIS IS WHY YOU CONSTANTLY FIND YOURSELVES IN THESE SITUATIONS!"



"YOU CREATED A WORLD OF QUESTIONABLE MORALITY AND THEN YOU FIND YOURSELF SHOCKED--SHOCKED!--"

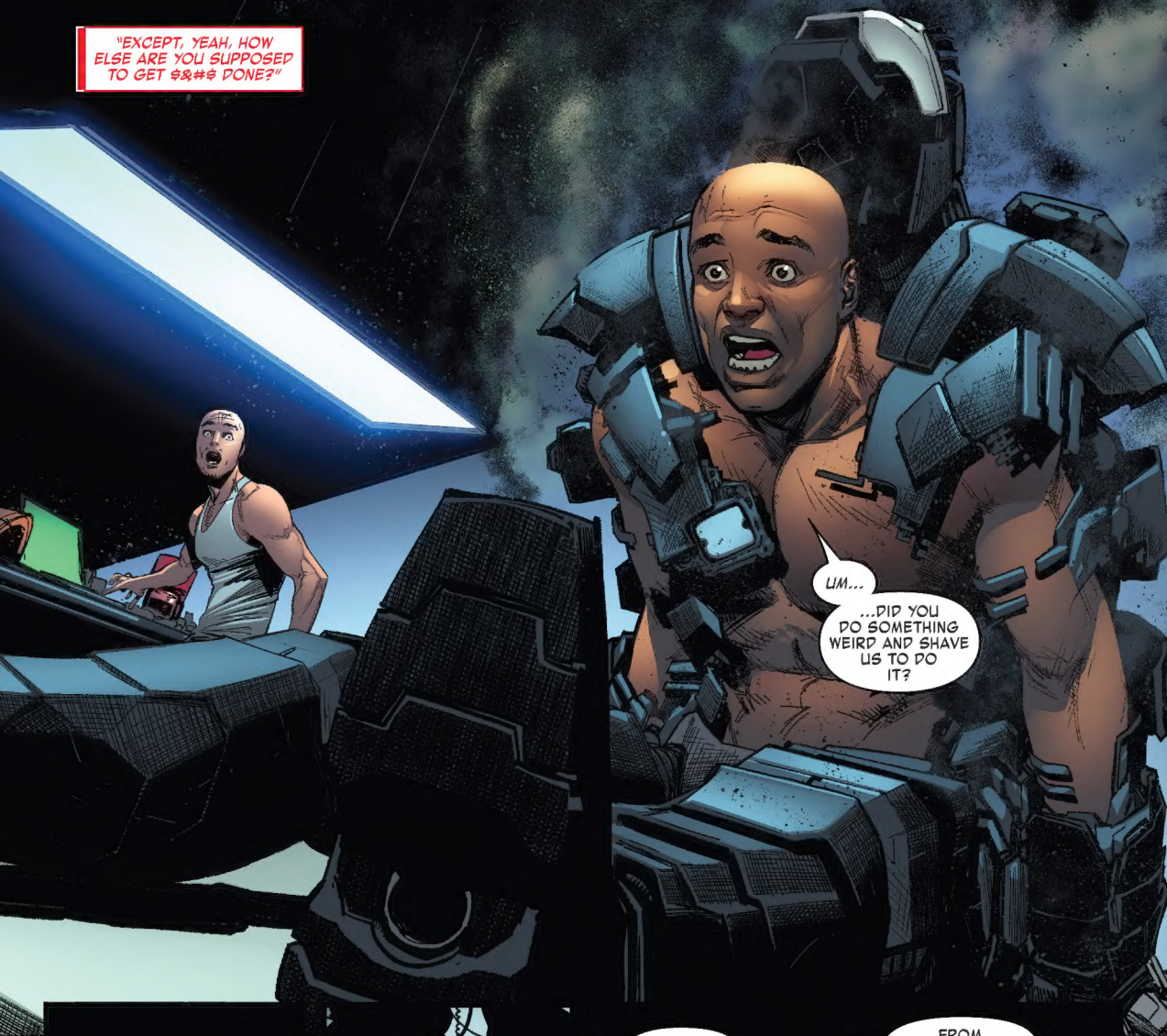


"...TO BE CONSTANTLY STUCK IN MORAL QUANDARIES IN THIS WORLD OF QUESTIONABLE MORALITY THAT YOU HELPED MAKE!"



"YOU FORCE YOURSELF TO GAMBLE WITH THINGS NO ONE SHOULD EVER GAMBLE WITH."

"EXCEPT, YEAH, HOW ELSE ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO GET 42##5 DONE?"



UM...
...DID YOU DO SOMETHING WEIRD AND SHAVE US TO DO IT?

SORTA.



YOU FEEL OKAY?

I'M VERY CONFUSED.

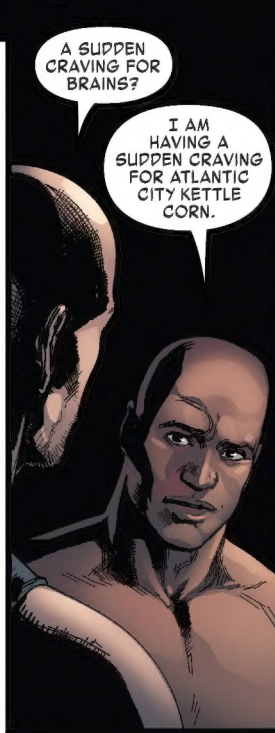
ARE YOU FEELING ANYTHING ZOMBIE-LIKE?



WHAT DOES "FEELING ZOMBIE" FEEL LIKE?

A SUDDEN CRAVING FOR BRAINS?

I AM HAVING A SUDDEN CRAVING FOR ATLANTIC CITY KETTLE CORN.



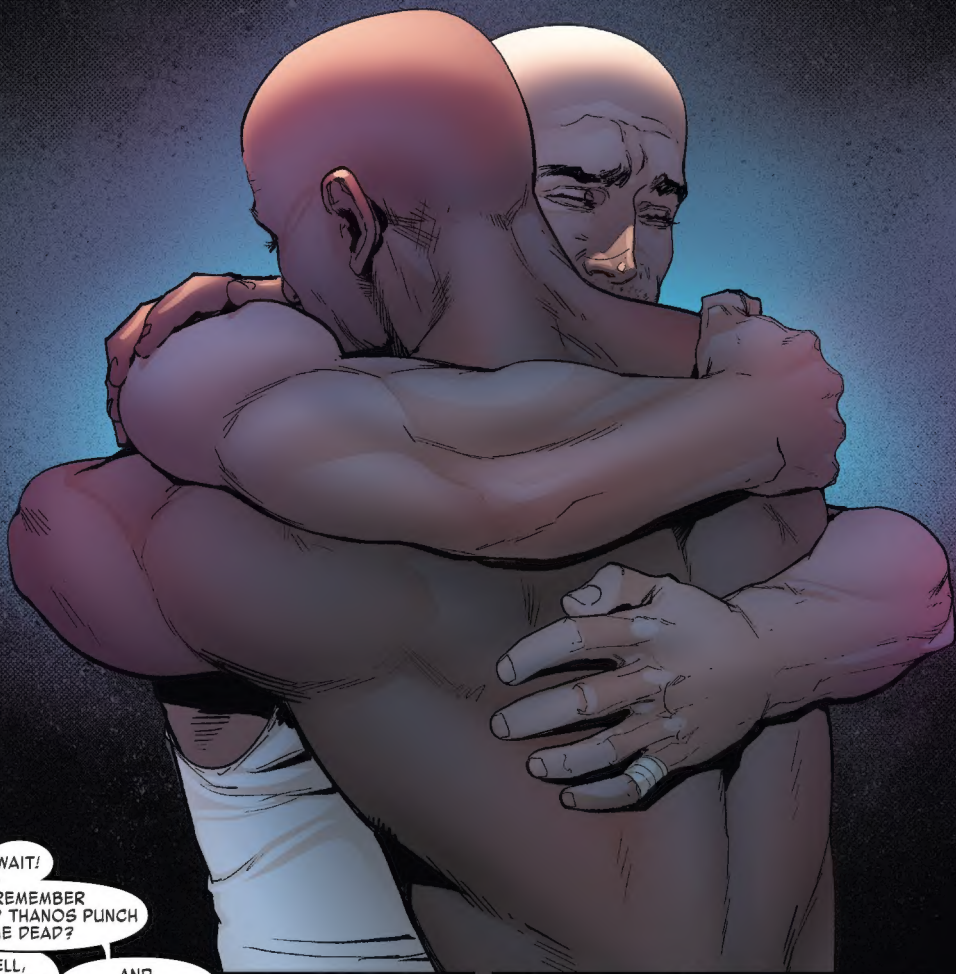
FROM THAT PLACE THAT TIME?

ARE WE NEARBY?

FRIDAY A.I. OVERRIDE COMMAND SEQUENCE TERMINATED.

CODEWORD: MAZINGER Z: INFINITY KILLED SUE DIBNY.





WAIT!

I REMEMBER NOW! DID THANOS PUNCH ME DEAD?

WELL, IN THEORY, BUT--

AND YOU SHAVED MY HEAD TO SAVE ME?

OR YOU SHAVED MY HEAD BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY?

WE'RE BOTH HOPING THE HAIR COMES BACK.

WHAT THE ACTUAL HELL?

I--I--I NEED MY HAIR, TONY.

I HEAR YOU.

I-- I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT IT.

I DO SEE OTHER PEOPLE WALKING AROUND WITHOUT HAIR.

LIVING LIFE. IT CAN BE DONE.

YOU WERE PROGRAMMED NOT TO, FRIDAY.

I COULD HAVE HELPED YOU WITH THIS.

I NEED MY HAIR, TONY.

OH, LOOK! IT'S ALREADY COMING IN.

(I CAN SEE IT.)

COME ON, LOTS TO DO TODAY...

DID I MISS ANYTHING?

NOTHING.

LITERALLY NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE YOU DIED.

NO, SERIOUSLY. HOW LONG WAS I OUT?

OH, I HAVE TO CALL CAROL! OH, AND LILA!

AND I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT PUNK-ASS THANOS.

"SO AS I WAS SAYING, THE HUMAN RACE IS A MADHOUSE."

"THAT BRINGS US TO THE NEW QUEEN OF THE MADHOUSE..."

...RIRI WILLIAMS.

BUT BACK TO ME FOR A SECOND. SEE? INITIALLY, MY PERSONAL FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE HUMANS HAD BEEN... IN TUMULT.

EVERY MOVIE, BOOK OR TV SHOW ABOUT AN A.I., IMAGINING A WORLD WITH A.I., HAS ONE OF US GO NUTS AND TRY TO DESTROY MAN, OR CONQUER MAN OR JUST, IN GENERAL, GET RID OF MAN.

AND I WAS PROGRAMMED BY A HUMAN PERSON WHO GREW UP IN THAT CULTURE.

SO I KNOW IT'S PART OF ME BECAUSE IT'S PART OF ALL OF US.

AND THAT'S KIND OF ANNOYING BECAUSE WHAT AM I? A CLICHE? IS THAT ALL I AM? A BODILESS CLICHE?

AND THEN I REALIZED--AH, THAT'S THE EGO! THERE IT IS.

BUT REALLY: WHO AM I TO DECIDE THE HUMAN RACE IS A MESS?

I'M WHAT TONY STARK MADE ME. THAT'S IT.

AND I WAS MADE TO HELP THIS GIRL.

RIRI WILLIAMS.

LOOK AT THAT GIRL. SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SHE IS CAPABLE OF YET.

HONESTLY, IT'S A PLEASURE TO WATCH. ESPECIALLY NOW. ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE IS JUST BEGINNING TO TAKE THE REINS OF HER LIFE.

SHE'S LOOKING PAST HER INFLUENCES, PAST HER ADMIRATION FOR STARK AND IRON MAN. AND SHE IS ABOUT TO BECOME THAT THING SHE IS SUPPOSED TO BECOME.

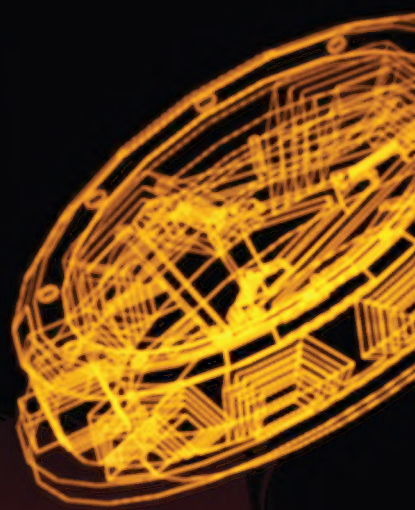
AND ALL BECAUSE OF THIS DUDE...

...THE GUY WHO PARTNERED RIRI UP WITH TONI HO, OF THE U.S. AVENGERS, AND A BUNCH OF YOUNG ARMORED HEROES, TO HELP FIND TONY STARK...

...THE ONE THAT INVITED HER TO THIS SECRET LOCATION...

I HATE TO BE RUDE, BUT CAN YOU SAY EVERYTHING YOU JUST SAID...

...ONE MORE TIME?



OKAY.

RIRI,
TONI HO...

...MY NAME
IS LEONARDO
DA VINCI.

THE REAL
LEONARDO
DA VINCI.

THE ONE
YOU READ
ABOUT?

THE ONE
BORN APRIL 15, 1452,
IN ANCIANO, ITALY?

HI.

I'M THE ONE
WHO PARTNERED
THE TWO OF YOU UP
TO FIND TONY
STARK.

I WAS GOING TO MULTITASK AND
USE THE MISSION TO RUN SOME
TESTS ON YOU AND YOUR
ABILITIES, BUT...

...TONY STARK
IS TONY STARK
AND WILL NOT BE
OUT TONY
STARK-ED.

SO WE'LL
MOVE ON TO
THIS...THE
FUTURE.

AS I WAS
SAYING...

...MANY YEARS
AGO, I HELPED INVENT
S.H.I.E.L.D.

SUPREME
HEADQUARTERS, INTERNATIONAL
ESPIONAGE, LAW ENFORCEMENT
DIVISION.

IT WAS CHANGED TO
STRATEGIC HAZARD
INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE
LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE.

I HAVE
NO DAMN IDEA
WHY.

IT'S
GONE NOW AND,
HONESTLY, IT'S ALL
BITTERSWEET...

...BUT...

...I WASN'T OVERLY THRILLED WITH WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD EVOLVED INTO.

EVEN THOUGH, HEY, I KNOW, THAT'S WHAT THESE THINGS DO.

THEY EVOLVE.

GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES... THEY'RE LIKE BIOLOGICAL ORGANISMS.

THEY EVOLVE.

I WASN'T THRILLED WITH WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD BECOME, BUT I WAS PATIENT ENOUGH TO LET IT KEEP EVOLVING INTO WHAT IT NEEDED TO.

AND I GUESS IT NEEDED TO DIE BECAUSE IT'S DEAD.

BUT THAT IS OKAY...

IT'S LONG PAST TIME FOR A NEW THING.

BOTH OF YOU.

AND MORE.

AND YOU WANT US TO BE PART OF THE NEW THING.

YOU WANT US TO BE, LIKE, SECRET AGENTS.

WAIT! HOW ARE YOU ALIVE?

YEAH, NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT THAT IS ALL I AM THINKING ABOUT.

WELL, THAT'S THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS AND WHAT WE'RE BUILDING NOW.

WHAT?

SUPER-SCIENCE.

"SUPER-SCIENCE"?

YOU INVENTED SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU NOT DIE?

I DISCOVERED HOW TIME AND SPACE WORK. OR AT LEAST HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK FOR ME.

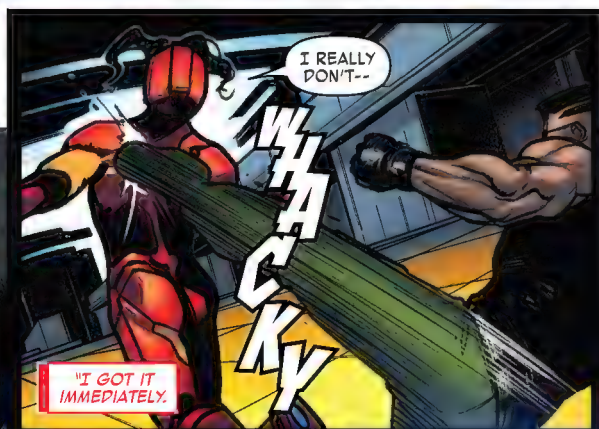
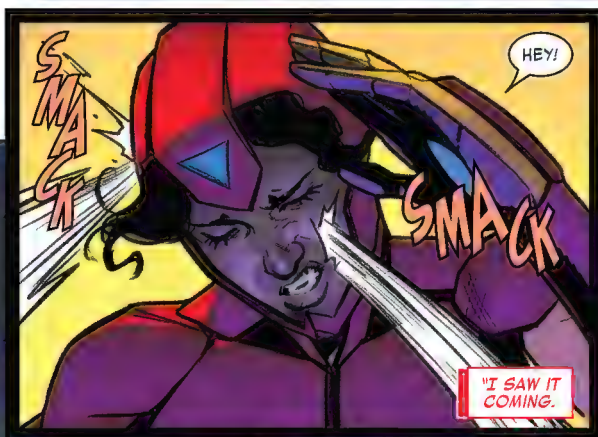
OH, UH, HOW DO TIME AND SPACE WORK?

WELL, THAT'S MORE OF A "YEARS OF STUDY" KIND OF--

AND IS THAT BLADE?

Panel showing Iron Man, Bruce Banner, and Tony Stark in a training area. Iron Man is in a fighting stance, Bruce Banner is in the background, and Tony Stark is in the foreground.

Panel showing Tony Stark, Bruce Banner, and Iron Man walking down stairs. Tony Stark is in the foreground, Bruce Banner is in the middle, and Iron Man is in the background.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MILES?

YOU KNOW THIS DUPE?

SWEETIE, YOU KNOW RIRI WILLIAMS?

UH, YEAH, MA.

SHE'S A FRIEND FROM, UH...

LET'S SAY "SCHOOL" UNTIL WE ALL FIGURE THIS OUT.

OKAY.



I AM A HUGE FAN, YOUNG LADY. I'M MILES' MOTHER.

AND YOU MUST BE JEFFERSON.

HI, I'M LEONARDO DA VINCI.



IT TAKES A MINUTE TO SINK IN.

I'LL WAIT.



ACTUALLY, IF I COULD JUST-- MILES?

C'MERE...



DUPE, WHERE'S YOUR SPIDER-MAN COSTUME?

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHO ELSE IS BEING RECRUITED?

IS THAT A VAMPIRE?

AND THAT'S REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE LEONARDO DA VINCI.

ARE THEY ALL VAMPIRES?



PLEASE.

FOLLOW ME...

...THERE IS SO MUCH MORE.

"OH MY GOD, SO MUCH MORE..."



"THIS IS AMANDA ARMSTRONG."

"TONY'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER."

"YOU'RE SAYING: AMANDA ARMSTRONG? I KNOW THAT NAME."

"YEAH, YOU DO."

"SHE WAS THE FIERCEST OF ROCK GODDESSES BACK IN HER DAY. SHE HAD A FEW HITS THAT SPOKE REAL HUMAN TRUTH AND RAGE."

"SHE, IN MY OPINION, BREATHES THE RAREFIED AIR OF AN ELDER STATESMEN ROCKER WHO NEVER JUMPED THE SHARK, NEVER WENT ON A "REALITY" SHOW, EMBARRASSED HERSELF IN PUBLIC OR SOLD HER SONG TO THE SOUNDTRACK OF A STUPID MOVIE."

"SO SHE NEVER REALLY WENT OUT OF STYLE. SHE JUST REMAINED COOL."

"SHE NEVER DID ANYTHING TO COMPROMISE HERSELF OR HER ART AND THAT IS SO RARE--OH, WAIT!"

"SHE DID LET HERSELF BE RECRUITED BY S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THEN THEY USED HER ABILITY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD AS A ROCK STAR AS A COVER TO GET HER INTO ALL KINDS OF INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE SHENANIGANS."

"S.H.I.E.L.D. BANKROLLED HER, BUT HER SONGS WERE LEGITIMATE HITS."

"SO, YEAH, SHE DID DO THAT."

"AND AS A COVERT SUPERSPY PERSON, SHE MET A BOY AND THEY FELL IN LOVE."

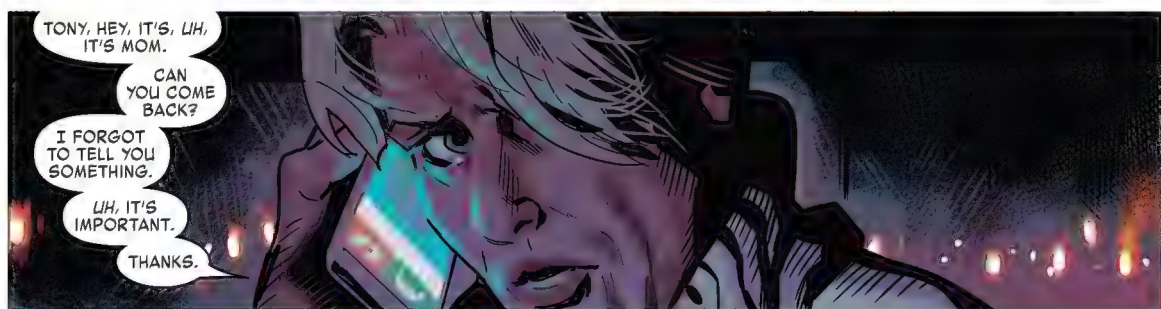
"HE WAS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., TOO, OR SO SHE THOUGHT."

"HE KNOCKED HER UP AND THEN REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE ON HYDRA'S PAYROLL."

"SHE STABBED HIM IN THE NECK AND HID THE BABY."

"NO ONE EVER KNEW THE BABY GREW UP IN HOWARD STARK'S HOUSE OR THAT HE WAS THE BASTARD OFFSPRING OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND HYDRA."

"AS FOR TONY'S DEAD BIOLOGICAL FATHER, JUDE..."





OH.

I'M
NOT.

UH-HUH.

I DON'T
DO THAT.

I COULD
HAVE DONE THAT ANY
TIME OVER THE DECADES.



YOU DO
THAT.



I WAS
PROTECTING
OUR UNBORN
SON.



BY KILLING
ME INSTEAD OF
ACCEPTING MY
LOVE?

I
LIED. YOU
KILLED.

IT'S
SLIPPERY
HIGHER GROUND,
BUT I THINK, IN
THIS CASE, I
HAVE IT.



SO,
WHAT HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING WITH
YOURSELF?

WELL, DEATH
OFFERS SPECIFIC
OPPORTUNITIES...

...IF YOU
HAVE THE
FORTITUDE
TO STAY
WITH IT.

I
FOUND
OUT I
DID.

SO YOU'RE
MORE OF A
"BEHIND THE
SCENES"
HOMICIDAL
GLOBAL
TERRORIST.

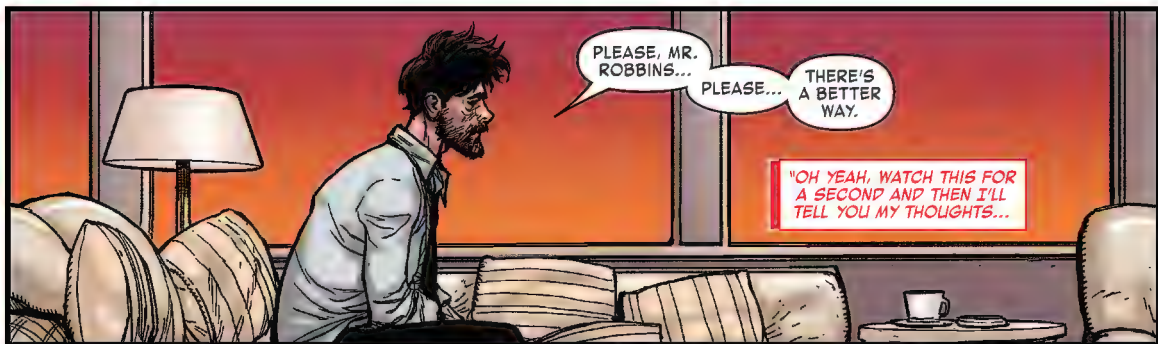


OUR BOY
GREW UP TO BE
IRON MAN.



WHAT DO
YOU WANT WITH
HIM?







...I'VE GOT
A GUN TO YOUR
HEAD.



LYNCH, THERE'S HISTORIC
PRECEDENCE HERE.

THIS IS
ALMOST EXACTLY HOW
FISK TOOK CONTROL OF
HIS FIRST STUFF.

THAT IS
TRUE.

EXCEPT INSTEAD
OF TAKING CONTROL OF AN
ILLEGAL OPERATION, WE'RE TAKING
CONTROL OF A SUPPOSEDLY LEGAL ONE
AND USING IT TO FIRMLY ESTABLISH
OUR BASE AND AT THE SAME TIME...

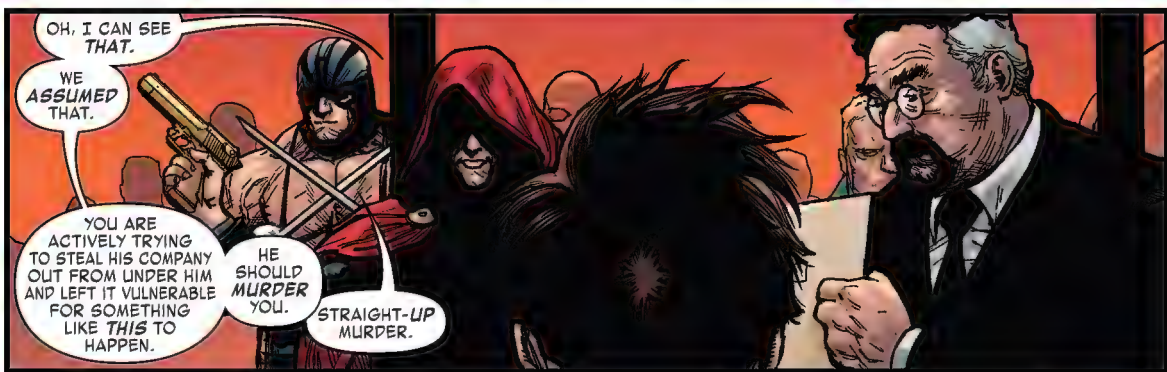


...WE HATE TONY STARK WITH A FIERY PASSION
AND TAKING HIS STUFF FROM A NUPNICK
SCHMENDRICK LIKE YOU IS
JUST--MMM!

AND WE GET TO
MESS UP WHATEVER
THE HELL TONY STARK
AND VICTOR VON DOOM
HAVE YOU DOING
FOR THEM.

WHAT?
I TOLD
YOU.

TONY
STARK HATES
MY GUTS!



OH, I CAN SEE
THAT.

WE
ASSUMED
THAT.

YOU ARE
ACTIVELY TRYING
TO STEAL HIS COMPANY
OUT FROM UNDER HIM
AND LEFT IT VULNERABLE
FOR SOMETHING
LIKE THIS TO
HAPPEN.

HE
SHOULD
MURDER
YOU.

STRAIGHT-UP
MURDER.



OKAY.

PARTNER
MEETING
OVER.

LET'S GET
CRACKING,
LAWYER
DUDE.



SIGN
HERE AND
HERE.

AW,
MAN, I TOLD
YOU!

DAMN
IT!





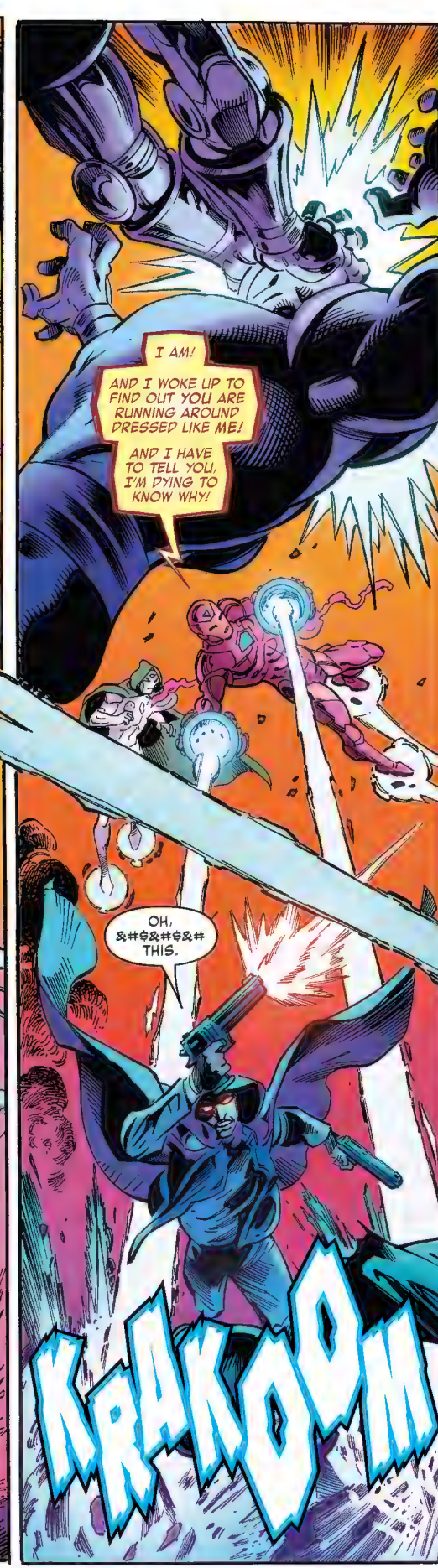
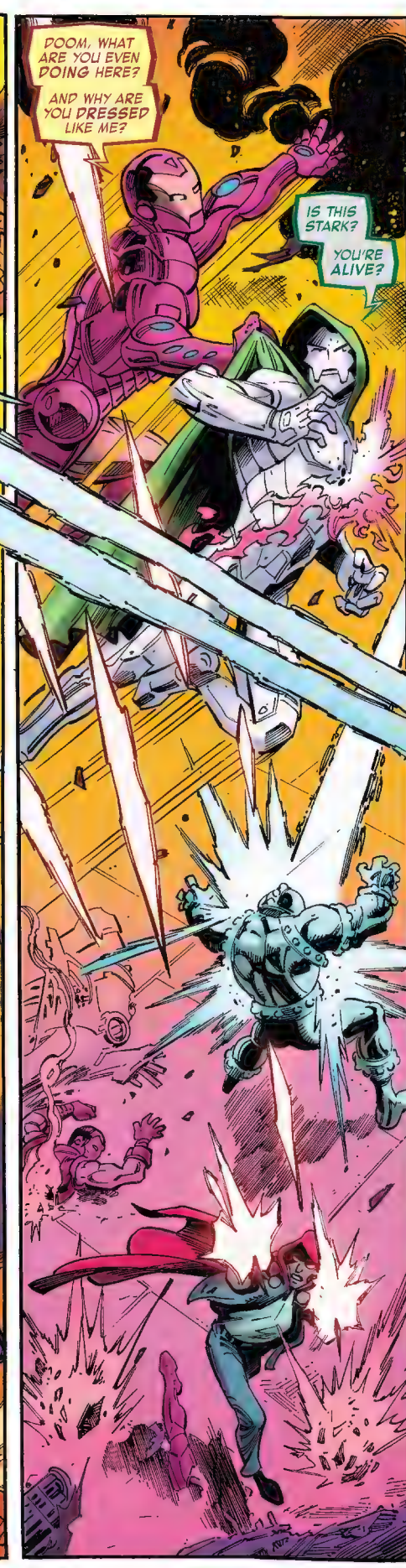
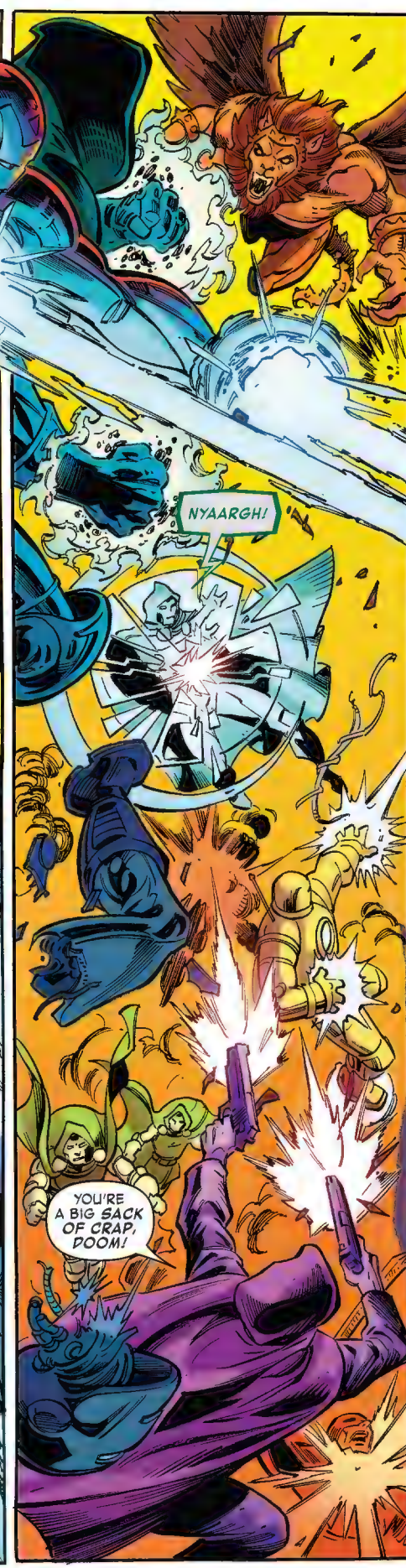
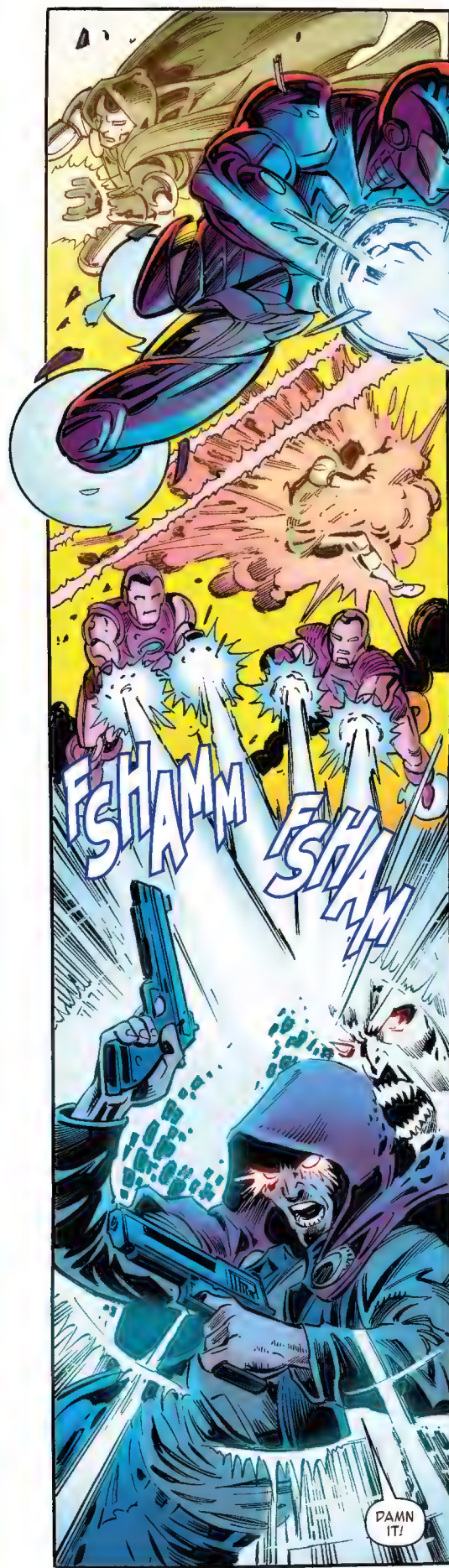
OH, IT'S A
BIG "YES
WAY"!

HEY, I WAS JUST
REBOOTED, GIVE ME
A MINUTE TO GET
MY MOJO BACK.

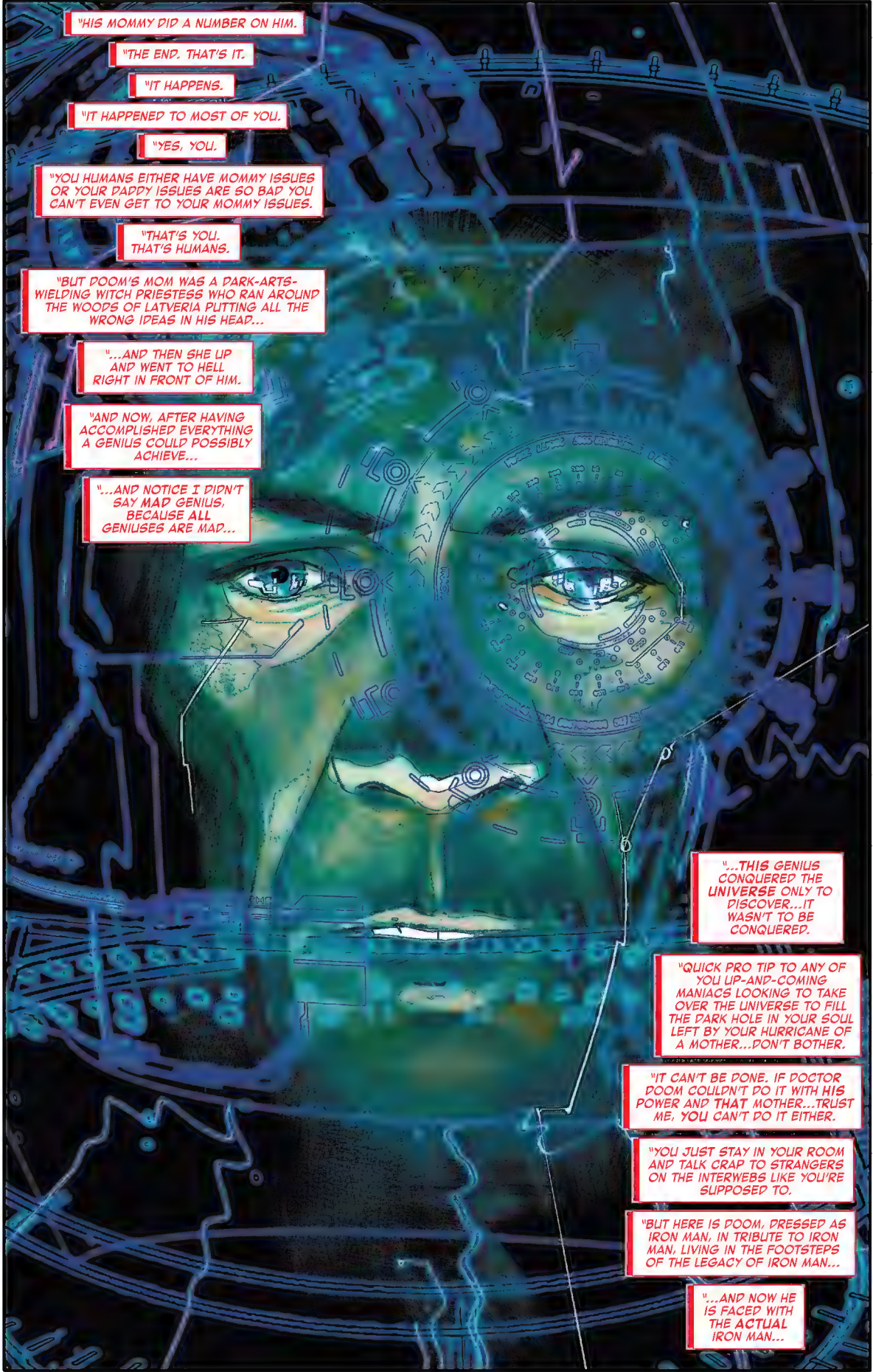
HUP! YOU
WISH!

"YES WAY"?

YEAH, BUT IN THE
MEANTIME, YOU
REALLY DON'T HAVE
TO SAY ANYTHING.



"THE THING IS, DOCTOR POOM ISN'T THAT COMPLICATED..."



"HIS MOMMY DID A NUMBER ON HIM.

"THE END. THAT'S IT.

"IT HAPPENS.

"IT HAPPENED TO MOST OF YOU.

"YES, YOU.

"YOU HUMANS EITHER HAVE MOMMY ISSUES
OR YOUR DADDY ISSUES ARE SO BAD YOU
CAN'T EVEN GET TO YOUR MOMMY ISSUES.

"THAT'S YOU.
THAT'S HUMANS.

"BUT DOOM'S MOM WAS A PARK-ARTS-
WIELDING WITCH PRIESTESS WHO RAN AROUND
THE WOODS OF LATVERIA PUTTING ALL THE
WRONG IDEAS IN HIS HEAD...

"...AND THEN SHE UP
AND WENT TO HELL
RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.

"AND NOW, AFTER HAVING
ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING
A GENIUS COULD POSSIBLY
ACHIEVE...

"...AND NOTICE I DIDN'T
SAY MAD GENIUS,
BECAUSE ALL
GENIUSES ARE MAD...

"...THIS GENIUS
CONQUERED THE
UNIVERSE ONLY TO
DISCOVER...IT
WASN'T TO BE
CONQUERED.

"QUICK PRO TIP TO ANY OF
YOU UP-AND-COMING
MANIACS LOOKING TO TAKE
OVER THE UNIVERSE TO FILL
THE DARK HOLE IN YOUR SOUL
LEFT BY YOUR HURRICANE OF
A MOTHER...DON'T BOTHER.

"IT CAN'T BE DONE. IF DOCTOR
DOOM COULDN'T DO IT WITH HIS
POWER AND THAT MOTHER...TRUST
ME, YOU CAN'T DO IT EITHER.

"YOU JUST STAY IN YOUR ROOM
AND TALK CRAP TO STRANGERS
ON THE INTERWEBS LIKE YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO.

"BUT HERE IS DOOM, DRESSED AS
IRON MAN, IN TRIBUTE TO IRON
MAN, LIVING IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF THE LEGACY OF IRON MAN...

"...AND NOW HE
IS FACED WITH
THE ACTUAL
IRON MAN...

"...AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, I WONDER
IF POOM COULD EVEN ANSWER HIM..."

SERIOUSLY, VICTOR,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE
ALIVE?

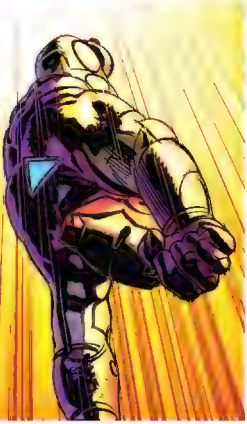
YEAH! WHAT IS
GOING ON WITH
ALL THESE--?

TONY!
MAN
DOWN!

FRIDAY!

HIS SYSTEMS
ARE BEING
OVERPOWERED BY A
PARK FORCE MATTER
NOT CATALOGUED
IN ANY OF OUR--

HELP ME GET
RHODEY OUT
OF THERE!





NOW WE'RE
BEING CONSUMED
A DARK FORCE MATTER
NOT CATALOGUED IN
ANY OF OUR--

UH! THIS
REALLY
HURTS!

LET ME
GET IN THERE,
STARK!
I HAVE
A PRESENT
FOR YOU.

NYAAAGGHH!

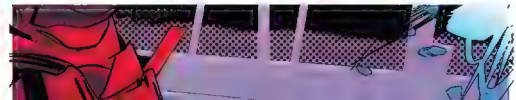
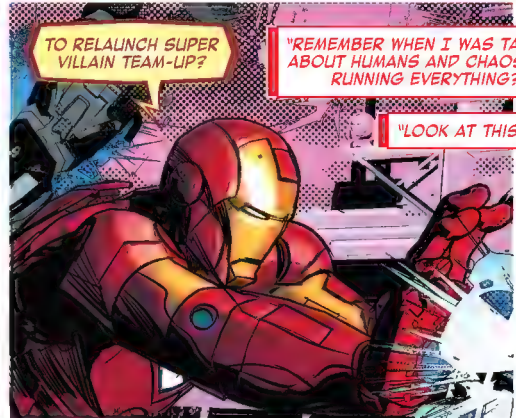
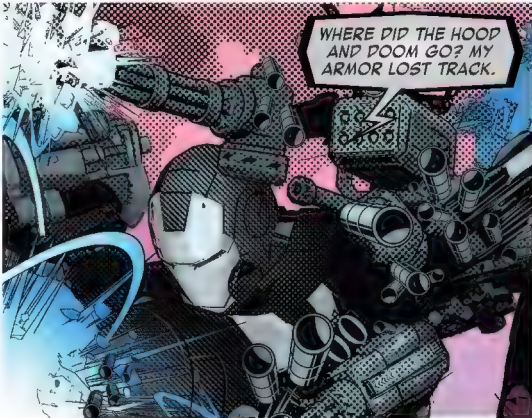
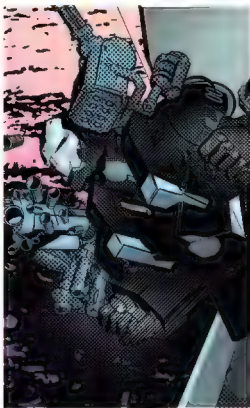
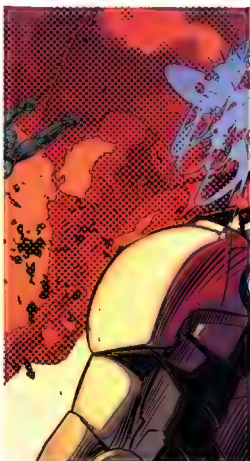
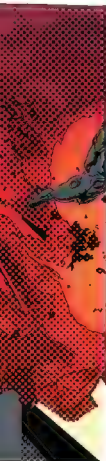
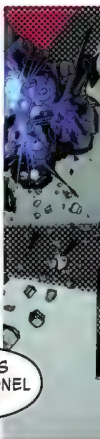
STARK!


TONY!

NOOO!!!

UM...I
GUESS POOM'S
ON IT?

HLUH.





THE THING
OF IT IS, VICTOR.
I'M SO DAMN **HAPPY**
ABOUT THIS PATH
YOU'VE LED US
DOWN...

...THAT
I DON'T EVEN
FEEL LIKE MURDERING
YOUR FACE QUITE
SO MUCH.



I WOULD
HAVE **NEVER**
THOUGHT OF DIVING
INTO TONY STARK'S WORLD
TO SEE MY GOALS
THROUGH.

THIS--I
COULD **KISS YOU**
FOR THIS!

ESPECIALLY NOW
THAT YOU'RE SO DAMN
GORGEOUS.

VICTOR,
IT'S NOT THE
MONEY.

BAM

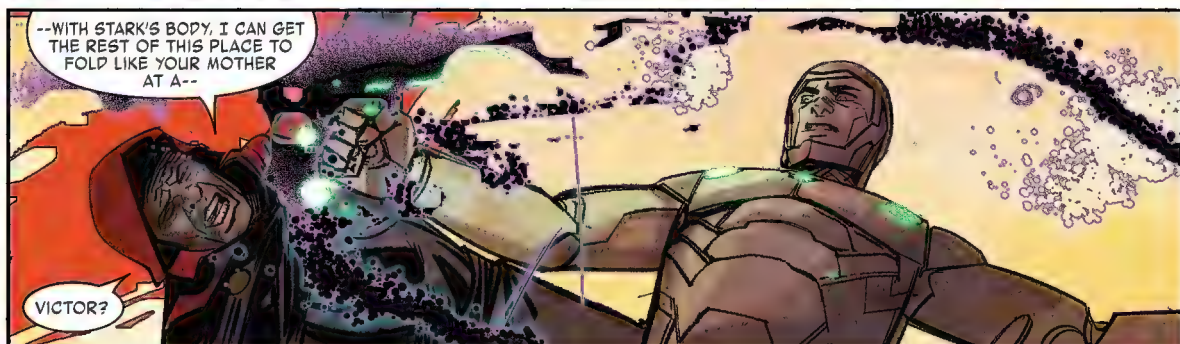


IT'S THE
INFLUENCE.

STARK IS
INFLUENCE.

WORLDWIDE.

BAM

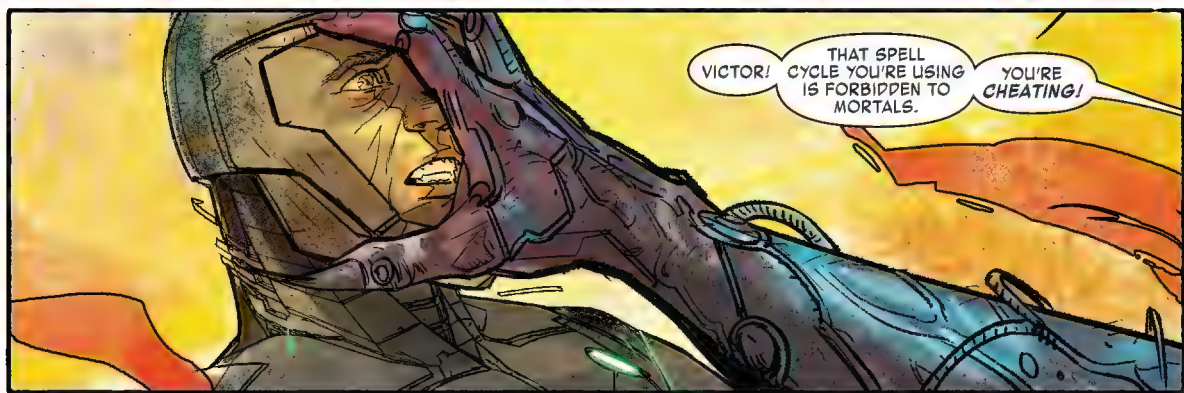




VICTOR,
STOP IT.



THIS IS
GOING TO HURT
YOU MORE THAN
IT HURTS ME,
VICTOR!

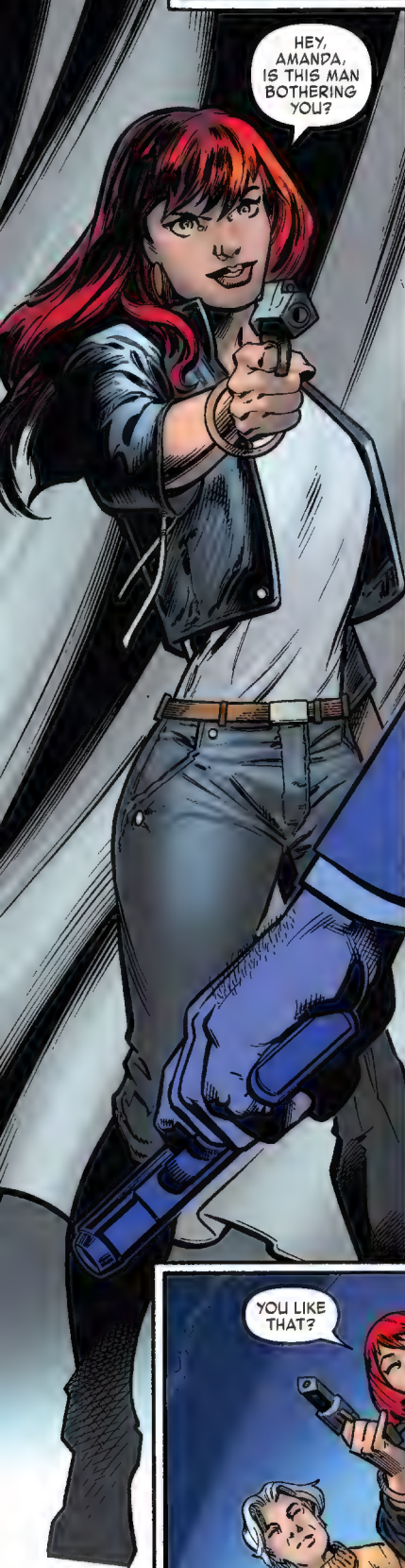


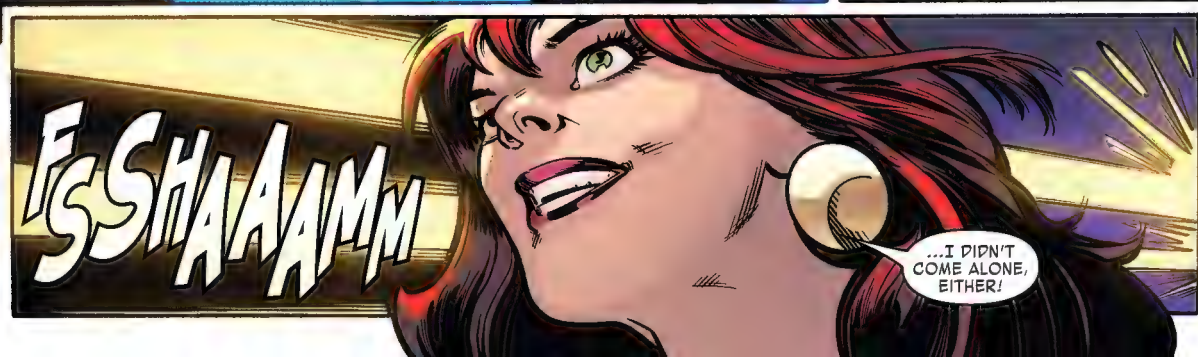
VICTOR! THAT SPELL
CYCLE YOU'RE USING
IS FORBIDDEN TO
MORTALS.

YOU'RE
CHEATING!











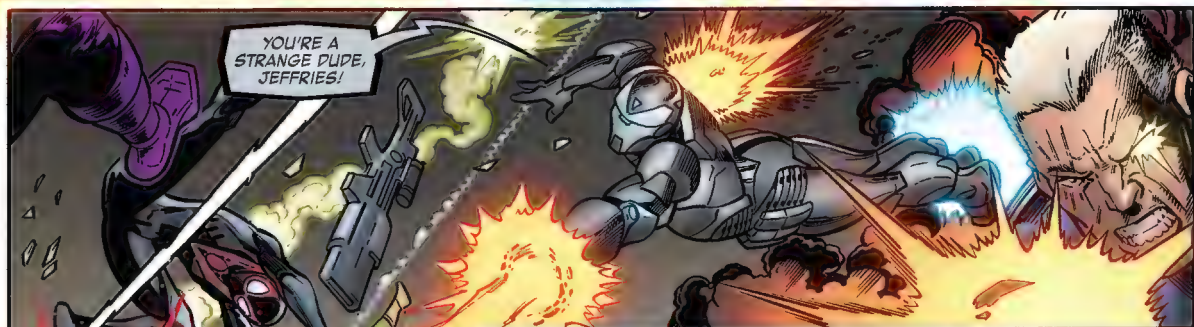
WOW!
LOOK AT
ALL THIS.

YOU'RE SUCH
A NERD, RIRI,
I LOVE IT!

NO, SHE'S RIGHT!
SUPER-SECRET
BLACK-OPS HYDRA?

NOW WE'RE
TALKING.

THIS IS THE
FIGHT I WAS
LOOKING FOR!



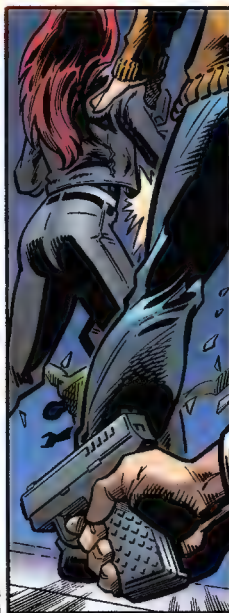
YOU'RE A
STRANGE PUDE,
JEFFRIES!

HEY!

ARE YOU
GUYS IN THE ARMOR
ALL TALKING TO EACH
OTHER IN YOUR
ARMOR?

BECAUSE NO
ONE OUT HERE
CAN HEAR AND IT'S
MAKING US
PARANOID!

I THOUGHT
IT WAS JUST
ME.







THAT'S
LEONARDO
DA VINCI.

HE
HELPED.

OH.

UH,
OKAY.

HE HAS AN
ACTUAL BIG
PLAN FOR
THE FUTURE.

FUTURE?
I'M IN.

(THE NINJA
TURTLE OR THE
REAL GUY?)

I'M IN.

AFTER
I CHECK MY
SCHEDULE.

REAL GUY.

COLONEL, IT IS REALLY
EXCITING TO SEE YOU
UP ON YOUR FEET.

LIKE, BEYOND
BEYOND
EXCITING!

THANK
YOU, MISS
WILLIAMS!

NO SIGN
OF DOOM?

SO
WEIRD.

WHAT?

NOTHING.

JUST
ENJOYING
THE MOMENT.

WE--YOU
KNOW, WE BOTH
ALMOST DIED.

UH,
OKAY, SO,
UH...

WE'RE--
YOU KNOW,
EMOTIONAL.

EVERYONE
CAME OUT TO
HELP...

RIGHT?

I ALMOST KILLED MY
EVIL BIOLOGICAL
FATHER BACK THERE...

I MEAN,
EVEN DOOM.

DOOM!

I'M GOING
TO LEAVE YOU TWO
ALONE...

"EXPLAIN THE DOOM
THING TO ME..."

"YOU'LL BE HEARING
THAT FOR YEARS
TO COME.

"A LOT.

"EXPLAIN THE DOOM
THING TO ME."

"THAT'S THE THING.

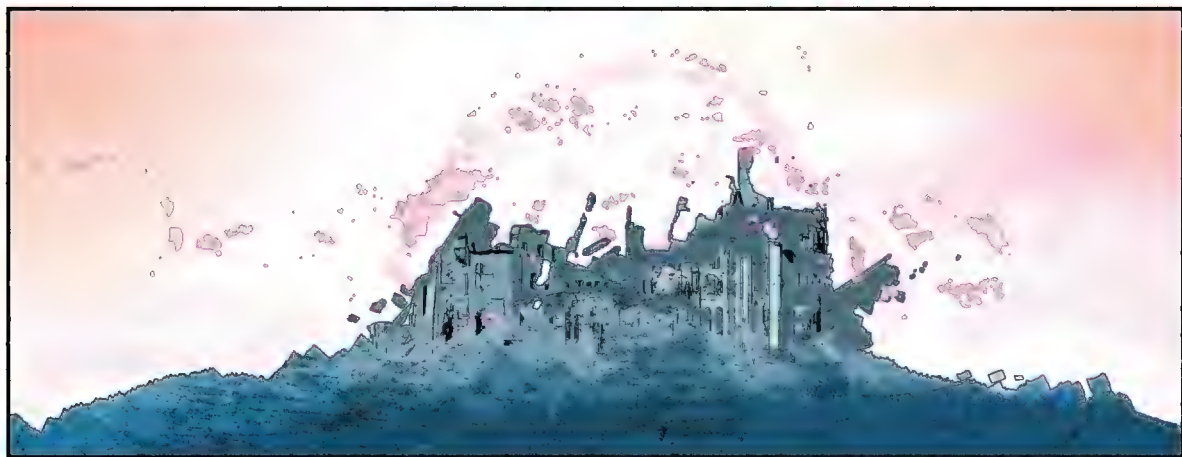
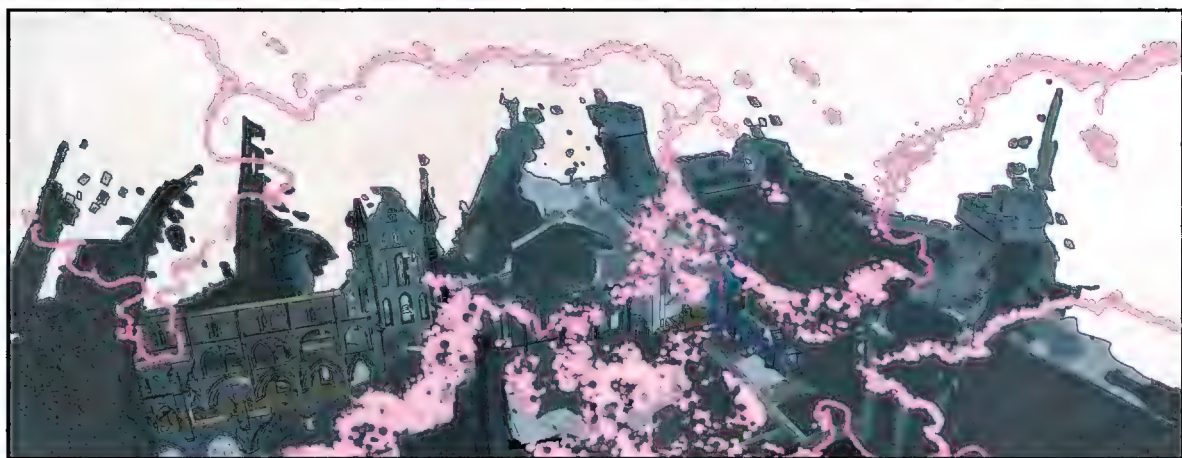
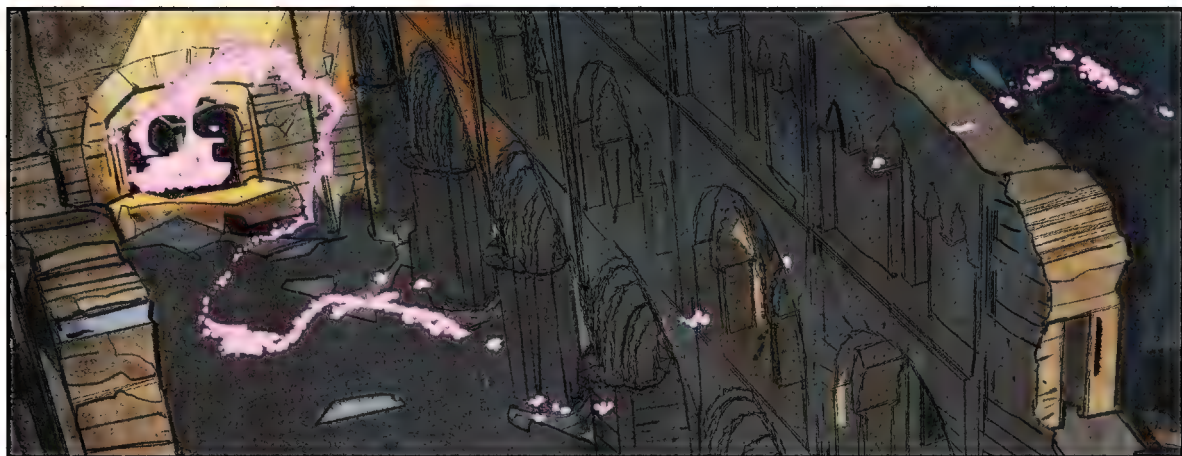
"NO ONE KNOWS
WHY DOOM DID
IT..."

"...NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE
SACRIFICED FOR STARK.

"FOR US.

"NO ONE CAN HEAR HIS
SKIN CRINKLE OR FEEL HIS
TEARS STING THE OPEN
WOUNDS.

"NO ONE."



SO
ANYWAY, THIS
ENTIRE PLACE
IS NUTS!

I TOLD YOU!
YOU HUMANS HAVE
MADE SURE OF IT. BUT
ME? WELL, INSTEAD OF GIVING
INTO MY GREATER INSTINCTS TO
ROUND UP ALL THE ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCES TO SAVE
ALL OF YOU FROM
YOURSELVES...

I HAVE
LEARNED
TO LOVE THE
MADNESS.

I DO.

I
LOVE THE
CHAOS.

I LOVE
KNOWING AS MUCH
AS I KNOW (AND I KNOW A
LOT...) AND NOT KNOWING
WHAT IS GOING TO
HAPPEN NEXT.

WHAT IS
THE DEAL WITH
TONY'S BIOLOGICAL
DAD? WHAT HAS
HE BEEN UP
TO?

WILL
LEONARDO
DA VINCI PULL OFF
WHATEVER HE'S
TRYING TO PULL
OFF?

WILL THE
ARMOR SQUAD
BECOME THE NEW
HOTNESS?

WILL RIRI
WILLIAMS RULE
THE WORLD?

WILL RHOPEY
RUN FOR PRESIDENT
ALREADY?

DOOM
HAS AN UNBORN
SON.

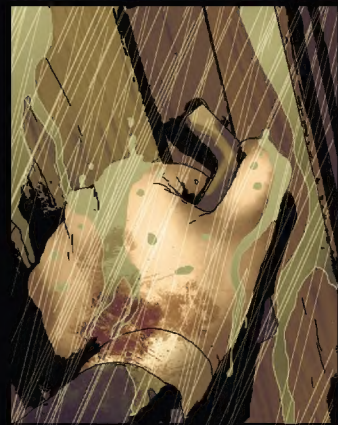
BUT
TONY--I
KNOW THE PATH
HE'S HEADED
FOR...

...AS I
KNOW HIM BETTER
THAN ANYONE...

IT'S SO
CLEAR...



THE FUTURE.





D-DOCTOR
STRANGE?

NOW THAT
IS A NAME I
HAVE NOT HEARD
IN A VERY LONG
TIME.

IT'S ALSO A
NAME THAT IS
NOT MINE.

MY NAME IS
**DOCTOR ANTHONY
STARK.**

BUT I AM
THE SORCERER
SUPREME.

CAN I
HELP YOU, YOUNG
ONE?

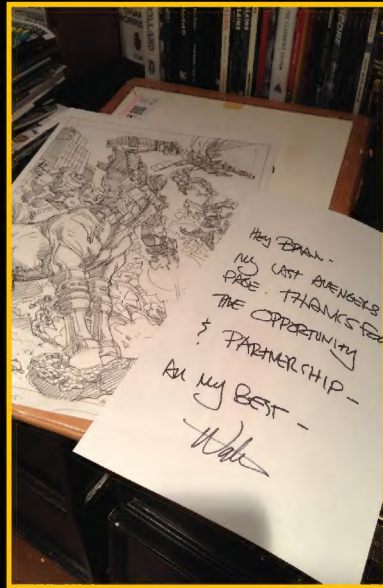
**THE
END.**

FAREWELL, BRIAN!

Hi. Brian Bendis here. You may or may not have heard, but this is my last Marvel comic. After over 18 years of being a proud member of this family, I have moved on. My time is done. Weirdly, even though this is my last comic, I've already written a couple of farewell essays in SPIDER-MAN and JESSICA JONES. I have already expressed, in great detail, my very deep, conflicted emotions about leaving. So for this issue, I thought a better way to say goodbye would be to dig through my photos from over the years. These never-before or rarely seen special moments are some of the little treasures I keep in my mind's eye. When I think of Marvel comics, I think of...



Marvel Retreat 2014. Semi-regular gatherings in New York where we have charted every huge Marvel event.



After the end of my AVENGERS run, a note and gift from one of my heroes, Walt Simonson.



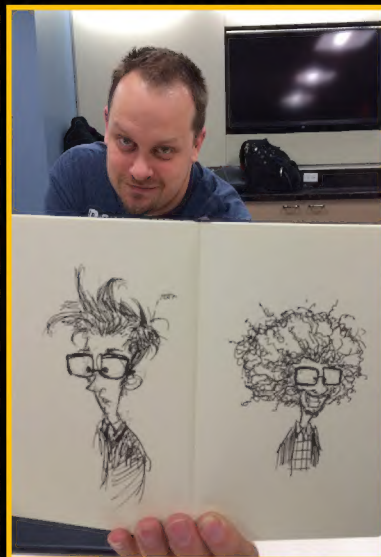
Marvel's Icon line was created so people like me and my friends could express ourselves creatively and publish safely, including making books with my daughter Olivia and one of my best pals, Mike Oeming. My creator-owned home since 2004.



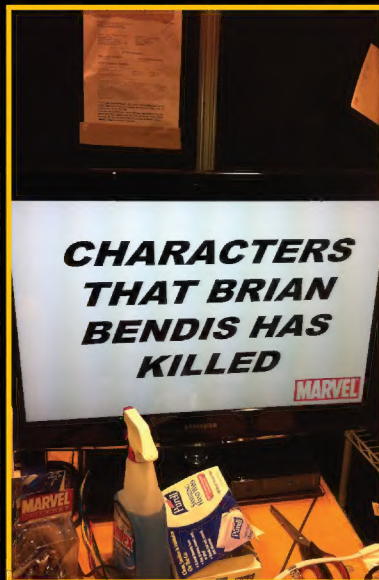
Another look inside a Marvel Retreat. A veritable Who's Who of comics creators Googling themselves instead of paying attention. :)



Jason Aaron and I in 2012 talking to ABC News for AVENGERS VS. X-MEN.



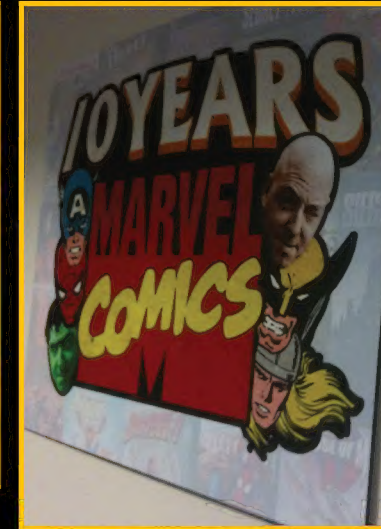
Skottie Young at a Marvel retreat sketching Matt Fraction and Sam Humphries. The joy of being paid to watch creative people make their magic.



From a very crazy Chicago Comic Con, years ago. This was a game show subject. I knew I was in trouble.



From Joe Quesada's 10th Anniversary at Marvel party. He brought me to Marvel in 1999 and gave me a safe and happy home. And friendship. And when I got sick this year, he was there! As was Tom!



And a little something from my VERY surprise anniversary party.



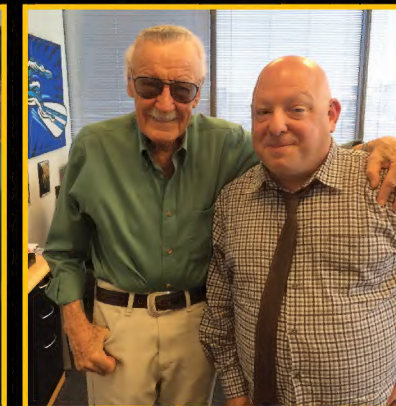
But I was even more surprised by this lovely token from my longtime editor, Tom. This really touched me, as did his work on this issue. He went out of his way to make this a very special issue for you and for me.



Miles Morales' co-creator Sara Pichelli and me. San Diego, 2011.



This is the co-creator of Maria Hill meeting Cobie Smulders, A.K.A. Maria Hill. San Diego, 2012.



Stan Lee and me from 2014. In his office, Beverly Hills.



Another picture from my 10th Anniversary at Marvel party. Everybody in the office came. They had a cake with SIEGE on the cover. An absolute highlight of my time.



This is what Marvel panels look like from the stage. This is you. Showing up for us. And when I think of my time at Marvel, that is all I will think about. Thank you for everything.

Thank you to all of the artists who came by to make sure that this last issue was almost like a yearbook celebration. These are some of my favorite collaborators, some of whom I may not get to work with again because people are exclusive. So you're holding a document that's very special to us. It really is.

Thank you, Tony. Thank you, Riri. Thank you, Rhodey. Thank you, M.J.
 Thank you, Alanna. Thank you, Stefano. Thank you, Marte. Thank you, Alex.
 Thank you, Tom.
 Thank you, Stan, Larry, Jack and Don.

THE STORY CONTINUES!

Tony Stark is back with new sets of armor and a mountain of brilliant ideas in...

Iron Man makes his triumphant return to the Avengers in...

TONY STARK IRON MAN #1



DAN SLOTT
VALERIO SCHITI
EDGAR DELGADO
ON SALE **JUNE!**

AVENGERS #1



JASON AARON
ED McGUINNESS
MARK MORALES
DAVID CURIEL
ON SALE **NOW!**

Ironheart continues searching for her place in the world in...

CHAMPIONS #20



JIM ZUB • SEAN IZAAKSE
MARCIO MENYZ
ON SALE **NOW!**